

About The Arts

By MEL TAPLEY

"Junior" Mingus, composer, bassist, pianist and bandleader, is a genius and Charles Mingus III is a crowd of artistic accomplishment himself. In fact, Charles III has so much talent, he could light up the sky like a traffic jam of comets. He is a painter, sculptor, director, filmmaker, designer, journalist, playwright and taught art at Haryou Act.

His recent show at the Razor Gallery made me feel like a hungry dog thrown a bone. I was grateful to my benefactor for feeding me but, after I had gnawed and sniffed, I snarled because there wasn't more bone and marrow.

The beautiful little paintings, over 30 selections from his "color studies series," had clusters of admirers gathered around each. "How does he do it?" many queried. His superb color sense and technique had produced a roomful of conversation pieces. They could have asked, "Why did

he do it?" because the exhibition was a virtuoso display of circles — two of them, incidentally, were *commissioned* for reproduction by the Museum of Modern Art.

Mingus says there was no mystical significance in these circles but it was as if a great explorer had opened the doors to his chart room and given you a glimpse of the unknown, nameless worlds he had visited. Or was it Scientist Mingus — one of them was titled "Time Seed" — revealing the mysteries of his microscope?

Let's see more of Artist Mingus. His masterful handling of compass and watercolors was quite a tour de force. But even a spaceman might tire of going around in endless circles. Exercises and etudes are necessary, but we are ready for Charles Mingus the Third to resume his particular concerts.

He has an idea for a museum exhibit that will graphically present Black history. He says whites "relate to us as artifacts, not as people." His proposed display would show that the artifacts are alive.

Slave Trade Record

South Street Seaport Museum Art Gallery, 9 Fulton St., will have 40 primitive paintings by Captain William Buck, who sailed with the British Fleet patrolling African coastal waters for offenders of the 1807 British anti-slave lawbreakers. It'll be there from Feb. 1st to 28th . . . Cinque Gallery, 442 Lafayette St., has Howard McCalebb's sculpture and collages until Feb. 16th . . .

Seventeen Magazine plans a feature on Alfred Pruitt's unique Egg Shell Art . . . Center for Inter-American Relations, 680 Park Ave., exhibiting some of the Museum of Modern Art's Latin American prints, Jan. 30th to Mar. 24th.

'Way down in New Orleans an exhibition for Ethiopian famine victims featured Skunder Boghossian, Achameleh Debela, Tesfaye Tessama, Alemayehu Medhin and Hailer Matafaria. Boghossian, artist-in-residence at Howard University, Debela, Morgan State College Gallery of Art curator, and the others are members of Ethiopian Artists in America . . . Larcada Gallery has five artists in Showcase I, Jan. 29th to Feb. 16th . . .

Janes United Methodist Church, Reid Ave. and Monroe St., Brooklyn presents the Collective Black Artists Ensemble, an 18-piece group, in ritual "The Evolution of Afrikan-American Music," Jan. 27.